

406376 F.H. W. Wilson  
Group 679 East Pacific  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 45.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

My Own Beloved,

Tomorrow we leave Tokyo my sweet, I must say I'm very glad of it. Wife only going as far as Kanoya, bright in the south of Japan then the next day will go to Laag, stopping at Okinawa en the way & then the following day we hope to get to Rabuan. Gosh I will be good to get back there & get some mail darling. That's the big thing about getting away from here - Oh I do want a letter or two from my wife so badly beloved in just a few days I'll have some. It's such a good thought.

This trip has been good in that it's let us see a bit of Japan & get some idea of how the surrender is going & also get an idea of how the people here view it all. This place we've been staying at has been great for getting different viewpoints from the bank & then last night we spoke for a long time with a Jap who was very good on his English & got his ideas. All most interesting.

Yesterday I got a few back copies of the "Pippin Times" & I think I'll post them home from Rabuan. There's lots of interesting



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This trip has been good in that it's let us see a bit of Japan & get some idea of how the surrender is going & also get an idea of how the people here view it all. This place we've been staying at has been great for getting different viewpoints from the Gaps & then last night we spoke for a long time with a Jap who was very good on his English & got his ideas. All most interesting. Yesterday I got a few back copies of the "Nippon Times" & I think I'll post them home from Rabuan. There's lots of interesting





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reading in them perhaps we can preserve them at leisure together later on. I'd rather feed them than carry them as Eden wants to have too much to take with me on the trip home.

This afternoon we had quite a good trip to Yokohama - its about <sup>thirty</sup> twenty miles south of Tokyo but really the two cities run into each other. The damage is truly amazing. All the way its just one great mass of burnt & on a large - one can't say burnt or buildings as there aren't any shells left - everything is flattened to the ground. Just a little of rusty iron. Here & there of course there are parts that escaped but they are very few. The outstanding thing I thought was the number of office safes there are just standing in the open. There's all that's left of hundreds of banks & offices & factories - they're mostly all broken open, but they still stand there as a reminder that once that place was a building. I didn't realize before that a city had so many safes before. The thing is that all of these buildings were just wood & iron. The tale that Tokyo would burn well was very true.





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While at Yokohama we found an American officers sales store & bought ourselves a few things we wanted. I got a decent pullover which I should have had at the start of my stay here instead of the end. Anyhow its quite nice - khaki of course - will keep me warm at home. Also got two pairs of nice grey socks & a shirt. The shirt isn't quite like a ball but the socks are.

Darling you'd be proud of me if you could see the work I've done on my cap. You remember I said it had got absolutely ruined in the typhoon - well it was ruined after all. It was completely covered with mud & was all in bits - the band half torn off & the badge & outside band half off & the lining on its way out. I temporarily lost my fur felt & was thus without a hat at all so I picked up the old cap & set to work on it. First I scraped it with a nail file & removed all the caked mud & then I brushed with my nail brush - dry of course - & wonder of wonders the mud & dust disappeared. Next I pulled it to bits - inside & outside bands anyhow, & sewed up the lining. Then I sewed on the





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hands & badge now I have a perfectly good cap. I'd completely given it up before & I am a bit pleased that it is now in working order. It's better than it was at the sanely scrubbed the inner band with soap water & the bits that were falling apart before are now securely sewn. I feel I'm clever!!!

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> at Laag.

I think that this is the longest period I've gone without writing to you for my pocket. It's not good, but then I couldn't have posted to you before reaching Labuan so you don't really miss it. There's been no real reason why I haven't written except that we've all been most unsettled & impatient & also I've had a lot of running round to do - Oh & we've had no lights at night.

On Saturday we got to Kanoya in good time & then on Sunday to Laag. We didn't stop at Okinawa but came straight through. The weather was good & we had a good trip except for a bit of engine trouble about an hour out from here. However I kept going & when we landed we found a mag had cracked up on us. Since then we've been madly trying to get another mag & now





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as long last it seems as if we're right.

This place is run by the Yanks of course & it's most difficult to get signals brought to Kobuan from here. Anyhow we sent one asking them to send us a mag & last night we got a reply that a beamfighter would be on its way at 7:30 this morning. Will get away tomorrow if all goes well & tomorrow afternoon I'll be reading your letters. Yash that will be good my loved.

We've had everybody here running round in small circles. The Yanks haven't sent type of mag here & they've sent to Manila for one but it hasn't arrived yet. I'll probably get here today & so will have two - that will be far better than none. On the other hand they may not have one there either.

The transit camp where it is about three miles from the aerodrome & I seem to have spent most of my time running backwards & forwards from there either to the kitchen or the signals office & it's been as hot as hell. Yash it's a change from Tokyo weather & we find it a bit hard. We grumbled at the cold in Tokyo & now we're growling at the heat here. It seems that the only place where I'll be satisfied is home.





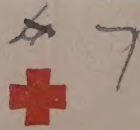
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Darling I may be doing wrong to raise your hopes without sufficient grounds & then have them dashed again but I think I should tell you of my hopes. When we get back we are putting in a very strong bid to get home straight away. How I do hope it comes off. The 4th is ~~now~~ going to Sydney a <sup>few</sup> days after he gets back to Lahrman & the idea is that we shall take him. Of course it is no good to us to go there & have to come back again, so the idea is for us to get posted first - if we can do that then someone else can take him.

It will be a long trip round for me to go via Sydney but I don't object at all. We have five or a half weeks to go now to finish our time & although that's not really a long time it seems just far too long for us & we are going to do our very best to make it as many days. It is possible for me to be in Sydney in not much over a week but at the moment there is no saying what it will come to - we may have to complete our full time, but we hope not & now you can hope with me my loved.

I'll post this as soon as we reach Lahrman tomorrow so I hope you get it in good time. It's the thought of this scheme that has unsettled





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me & I didn't know whether it was right to tell you of it as it may fall through. Of course I'll write you as soon as I know anything at all definite though a wire from Lahnau will take almost as long as a letter to reach you I'm afraid.

In a couple of hours we'll be scanning the skies for our beanfighters - it'll be a very welcome sight.

I bought myself a travelling bag - not that I intend to travel anywhere, but my case has just about seen its last days & if I can manage to pack my gear without it I'll toss it out. The typewriter didn't improve it - it got a bit wet. This bag I've bought is a Yankee affair of course & is built to carry suits & uniforms without crushing them. It's quite a good job. It will be handy when we go to Rattneest & the bag for all our holidays to come. Somehow I think we now have enough travelling gear. Trouble is none of it is much good.

I'll finish this now my loved so that it will be ready for the post as soon as we get to Lahnau. How I hope our scheme comes off beloved. It will mean that I'll be home with you in a fortnight. I've been able to think of little





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else there last few days & nights especially. I've thought over & over again of all the things that will happen & that we'll do. I do want you so awfully much my precious one - I wish I could write all that is in my heart but I just can't. I feel all mixed up inside & so very scared that it will all flop & we won't make it. I know you'll wish me such sweethearts & I'll need it, but it's about time the breakfast came our way so here's hoping with all our hearts. Give your small girl such lots of hugs & love from me. I do wish I'd been able to get that Kimona for her but I couldn't. Most of those that were being sold were second hand which I wouldn't have thought of getting & I just couldn't find a small one.

I'm loving you & thinking of you & longing for you every minute of the day my beloved. Now I send you every bit of my love. I do adore you Margaret & mine & I hope soon I'll be able to tell you so myself. How I hope so. In any case it's only five or half weeks, but that seems so too long for us to wait. I love you with all my heart & soul beloved mine. Ever your very own & very adoring Mamma.





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Nov. 1st.

I've just crossed out all about our plan to get home - you might as well know about it but it's all off now.

The boys have put in days of work on the kite & yesterday afternoon it seemed as if we'd get somewhere but after working till midnight last night it got us no where & the kite is still on the ice. This means that we can't get back to Labuan with the y/b as he's going back in the Beanfighter today.

It was such a great disappointment when we ran the engine up last night - it seemed to just dash all our hopes, it did just that too. The bean is leaving soon so this is only a note to tell you how things stand. We're still stranded at Laog & don't know when we'll get back.

Another kite will come back here tomorrow with more spars for us & we'll just hope the trouble can be fixed soon. We've had two kites - this one & one to Japan - from Labuan specially to us, but neither of them brought any mail. The y/b says we shall see it comes tomorrow. I don't



  
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hope so.

Must finish this new beloved. I hope I will  
have better news for you later, but it  
doesn't seem at all likely.

Bye bye good bless. I send you all my love  
my precious darling. Ever yours ever adoring  
Murray